(a) whether the renovation and reconstruction work of the Thousand Pillars Temple of Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh got stalled due to the differences between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the National Institute of Technology (NIT);

(b) if so, whether Government has directed the ASI to resume the renovation work of the Temple;

(c) if so, the details thereof and when the work is expected to commence; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no difference between Archaeological Survey of India and to National Institute of Technology, Warrangal about the renovation and (b) reconstruction work of the Thousand Pillars Temple of Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh. The loose soil below the foundation has already been compacted to achieve the desired density. NIT has given ASI a design for further improvement of soil bed by use of granular piles, without use of cement and steel. Necessary bids have been invited as per the NIT design and are being processed. ASI will be able to resume the work once the bids are finalized.

Celebration of Centenary of Guru-Ta-Gaddi

3736. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that country is celebrating the centenary of Guru-Ta-Gaddi of Guru Granth Sahib in October, 2008;

(b) whether the State Government of Punjab has sent a detailed project report for Talwandi Sab and Anandpur Sahib; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to approve and sanction the proposal of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have approved the development projects of Anandpur Sahib and Talwandi Sab for an amount of Rs. 9973.77 lakhs and Rs. 7984.00 lakhs respectively.

Cultural exchange programme

†3737. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries with whom India has cultural exchange relationship and the details of programmes organised during the last three years alongwith the present session for this purpose;

(b) the details of expenditure earmarked for the said programmes;

(c) whether Indian Cultural Centres have also been set up abroad; and

(d) if so, the details of working of these centres?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Establishment of more National Schools of Drama

3738. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Schools of Drama located in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has any proposal to establish more such centres in the country specially in Tamil Nadu in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the locations identified for establishing the same; and

(d) by when the above centres would be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) There is only one National School of Drama in the country which is situated in New Delhi.

(b) and (c) On the basis of the recommendations of the Broad Based Committee of the National School of Drama, opening of 5 Regional Schools has been proposed during XIth plan as under:—

(i) upgradation of the existing Regional Resource Centre of NSD at Bangalore into a full fledged regional School; (ii) Kolkata; (iii) Jammu & Kashmir; (iv) Maharashtra/Goa; and (v) Regional Traning Centre in the North East. There is no proposal to set up any such Centre in Tamil Nadu.

(d) It is proposed to operationalise these centers during the XIth Plan period.

Pending culture projects

†3739. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various schemes/programmes recommended/submitted by State Governments remain pending before the Central Government for years without any reason;

(b) if not, the details of guidelines in this regard;

(c) this details of schemes submitted by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to promote, preserve, expand and encourage the culture and are lying pending before the Central Government; and

(d) by when these schemes are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Facelift of Taj Mahal

3740. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.